



*“I came to cast fire upon the earth;  
and would that it were already enkindled!”*

Luke 12.49



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

One of the critical issues that we face as Secular Carmelites in the contemporary world and in Carmel today is the need to articulate and be in touch with the way Gospel truths and Carmelite Spirituality can and should be lived out in our time. This is no easy task!

To discover our unique calling as Secular Carmelites within our life’s context is both a challenge and a journey of discovery. Living out our vocation to Carmel in the world is a different experience than that of our Carmelite Friars and Carmelite Sisters in relation to lifestyle but not in relationship to our shared spirituality which unites us as one family in Carmel.

We need to be able to clearly say important things about the way we think about and the way we live our Secular Carmelite lives today. In the light of this necessity the Provincial Council has chosen a theme for our Congress in 2018 that is especially pertinent to reflection, discussion, and collegial sharing among our communities who will gather for this triennial event.

The Congress will be held on October 5, 6, 7, of 2018 at the Toronto Airport and Conference Centre within the Delta Marriott Hotel on Dixon Road. The theme for the Congress is **Enkindle the Fire Within: Carmelite Spirituality for Today’s World.**

For this very important Congress in the life of Secular Carmelites in Canada we will be joined by our newly elected Provincial, Father Juan Debono, ocd, from Malta, and Father Alzinir Debastiani, ocd, Delegate General to the OCDS from Rome.

May the words of Our Lord resonate in your hearts and in your prayer as you prepare for the Congress over the next year. *“I came to cast fire on the earth; and would that it were already enkindled.”* Luke 12.49

Gladys McMullin, ocds

Provincial Secretariat, President